May 5, 1975

The counties sell those plates and that money goes into Highway fund. The counties get part of it. The state gets part of it. It's the feeling of some, at least, that what we are doing is putting General Fund money into the Highway program and, therefore, there will be an amendment to LB 69 which would increase the cost of license plates so that the General Fund would recover that 1.8 million or the 1.8 million could, in effect, simply go back to the General Fund but there are some who are interested in better roads who object to this.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: It'd be a cost to the taxpayers, more?

SENATOR MARVEL: Yes.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I'd like to compete for that \$15 a plate. I think I could do that cheaper. Anyway, I will leave that there and then I will make those comments when 69 comes around.

SENATOR MARVEL: To tell you the truth, I was shocked when I saw how much money license plates cost and that is one reason that LB 69, which used to belong to Senator Keyes, but now is under the authorship of the Committee so that we take whatever heat is generated rather than he. That's the reason for this particular bill.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: All right. Fine. I have an amendment on the desk. Oh, I want to ask Senator Bereuter a question now, if I may, before I get to the amendment.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Bereuter, you just made a plea for efficiency in government between Economic Development and Technical Assistance Agency. Have you looked at Highway Safety as it relates to LEAA funds and if there is a duplication there?

SENATOR BEREUTER: I have looked at it in the past. At one time I was responsible administratively for the Highway Safety program and I have been a member of the State Crime Commission. There is a possibility of overlap in the construction, excuse me, in the purchase of hardware. Senator Lewis, if you will help us try for the first time to bring some close legislative scrutiny, legislative oversight to the Crime Commission by holding them to a tight personal service limitation by giving them only the amount of money they need to match grant programs available from LEAA, then we can avoid the situation we have had in the past which is this. They have had enough discretionary money in there that they can start programs, part of which relate to the purchase of equipment, they can add staff and lead us into other programs and that is why we are lapsing most of their reappropriation and that is why we are pinning them down with the personal service limitation, something we aren't doing for any other body, any other agency in the state, and that's why we are cutting them only to the match money needed for exactly the reasons you are pointing out.